



News From Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis 32nd Congressional District of California

1725 Longworth HOB | Washington, DC 20515 – 202.225.5464 -- 202.225.5467 f.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 2005

Contact: Edith Robles
(202) 225-2167

Solis Introduces Safe Water and Perchlorate Regulation Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.- Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis (CA-32), Ranking Member of the Environment and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, reintroduced the Safe Drinking Water for Healthy Communities Act of 2005 (H.R. 213). This legislation will require the Environmental Protection Agency to finalize a national primary standard for drinking water for perchlorate by July 31, 2007.

Solis was joined in introduction by Energy and Commerce Ranking Democratic Member John Dingell (MI-15), and Energy and Commerce Committee Members Lois Capps (CA-23) and Bart Stupak (MI-01).

Perchlorate is a component of rocket fuel used heavily by the military and its defense contractors which disrupts the functioning of the thyroid and can result in behavior changes and delayed development in children and thyroid tumors in adults. Contamination in California is primarily the result of releases from 12 military and defense contractor sites, and has contaminated more than 120 wells in Los Angeles County.

"Perchlorate has contaminated families' water supplies and threatened families' health for far too long. This legislation requires the EPA to move expeditiously to establish a standard to protect public health. Every day we wait to act unnecessarily risks public health and increases the cost of cleanup," said Congresswoman Solis.

In June 2004, the General Accounting Office found that the Department of Defense has generally not taken corrective actions to clean up large numbers of military facilities contaminated nationwide, nor does the Department of Defense have a comprehensive policy requiring sampling of water on or near facilities which use perchlorate.

"While the Department of Defense works to secure our nation against threats, its ability to dump perchlorate at will into our water supply threatens our very own public health and water supply. Ultimately it is the responsibility of Congress to make sure that those responsible for contamination know that threatening the public health is not acceptable," said Congresswoman Solis.

###